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WORLD HORSE NUMBERS IN 1950 AND 1951

Work Stock in Specified Countries

World horse numbers at the beginning of 1951 were estimated by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations at about 75 million head. This is a slight decrease from the 1950 estimate and about 22 percent below the 1934-38 prewar average.

Horse numbers increased moderately during the early postwar years, but have declined slightly since 1948 as tractor power has become available. Numbers increased or were maintained in most of the war-devastated countries of the world during 1949 and 1950. Generally, decreases occurred in the more agriculturally mechanized areas where farms were not exposed to war damage.

HORSES: Estimated world total, by continents or areas,
average 1934-38 and annual 1950 and 1951

Continent or Area	Increase (+) or decrease (-)					
	Average	1950	1951	1951	1951	1951
	1934-38	1950	1951	1934-38	1951	1951
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent	Percent
North America	18,600	11,200	10,500	-43	-	6
Europe	19,300	16,400	16,200	-16	-	1
Soviet Union	19,900	2/	13,700	-31	-	--
Asia	15,100	2/	12,100	-20	-	--
South America	17,700	17,400	17,400	-2	-	--
Africa	3,100	3,800	3,800	+23	-	--
Oceania	2,100	1,300	1,200	-41	-	5
Total	95,800	75,000	74,900	-22	-	--

1/ Preliminary

2/ Estimate included in world total

The Soviet Union is the only area reporting sizable increases during 1949 and 1950. The gain in the Soviet Union, together with unimportant changes in Europe, South America, Africa and Asia did not, however, offset declines in North America and Oceania (Australia and New Zealand). Horse numbers on all continents with the exception of Africa are reported to be substantially below prewar. South America is estimated as only slightly under the 1934-38 average.

Lack of tractors, replacement parts and fuel made necessary the expansion of horse-breeding programs in Europe, the Soviet Union and Asia. In postwar years, exports from countries having a surplus of horse power also tended to increase numbers in some of the war-damaged areas.

In Europe, horse numbers in Austria, Belgium and Germany now exceed prewar, but numbers in France and Greece are somewhat below. Increased mechanization in the United Kingdom has been accompanied by a decline in horse numbers during the past few years. Owing to the increase in the number of horses in Finland during the shortage of motor transportation, there is now a yearly surplus of 30,000 horses for slaughter. Although horse numbers in many countries have fallen because of the increased use of tractors on farms, some decrease can be attributed to the increased rate of slaughter for human consumption. In Western Germany there are still around 25,000 head more than the prewar average. German advisory agencies have continually pointed to the reduction in horses needed as one of the benefits of mechanization, but farmers have been slow to reduce their stocks. The Dutch horse population has continued downward during 1949 and 1950 due primarily to increased mechanization.

According to the agricultural census of 1949, a shift has occurred in the distribution of horses on Norwegian farms. There is at least one horse now kept on each of 20,000 small farms on which there were no horses previously. This increase on small farms has been more than counterbalanced by a decrease in the horses kept on large farms. On these farms tractor power has largely replaced horsepower.

The steady decline of horse numbers has continued in Switzerland. An advancement in farm mechanization probably has reduced the number of draft horses by 10,000 head as compared with the prewar status. Demand for small tractors now threatens further reduction. This policy is considered unwise by the Swiss Government as the country's entire motor fuel supply must be imported.

According to available data, the horse population of Southeastern Europe probably fell off during 1950 because of severe drought which limited supplies of forage and feed.

The Soviet Union has reported officially that horse numbers increased during 1950. Postwar gains have been steady, but numbers are still far below prewar levels and current production goals.

Horse numbers in Turkey and Iran were maintained near the 1950 level and are well above the 1934-38 average. On the other hand, some recovery is apparent in India, Japan and the Philippines. The Philippine horse population is currently placed near 70 percent of prewar. Since the animal is used almost exclusively for pulling light native rigs, and since the number of motor vehicles in the country has increased tremendously in postwar years, the decline in horse numbers is hardly felt.

Horse numbers in the United States during 1950 declined at about the same rapid rate as in recent years. This decline continued the trend which began in 1915. The small crop of colts is below that required to maintain present levels and points to a continued downward trend in workstock inventories. The number of horses kept on farms in Canada dropped sharply during 1950. This further decrease follows a steady downward tendency in numbers since 1942.

South American countries show a slight decline, but numbers are nearer the 1934-38 prewar average than on any other continent. Severe drought in late 1949 and early 1950 seriously affected the Argentine horse population. Horsepower is still very important in this country, but numbers should decline with the increased availability of tractor power. In Uruguay, saddle horses are about as numerous as in former years, but draft horses are gradually being replaced by machinery. Horse numbers in Venezuela are somewhat below prewar; however, a local horse crop of 70,000 animals probably forecasts a shift from cattle to horses on the part of some ranchers who, in the presence of foot-and-mouth disease, believe horse raising will be less risky.

In Oceania, both Australia and New Zealand continue their postwar decline and, like the United States and Canada, are below prewar levels.

In general, world horse numbers during 1951 should remain close to 1950. Declines in mechanized and semi-mechanized areas may be offset by increases in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Asia and some African countries. The Soviet Union and many European countries will not altogether abandon horse power for mechanization. Under current world tensions, and with the conversion of much heavy industry to war production plus the possibility of conserving fuel supplies, horses will continue to be of great importance to European and Asian agriculture.

OTHER WORK STOCK

In addition to horses, other work stock, notably mules and asses, oxen work cows and water buffaloes, provide farm power for a great part of the world, especially in Central and Southern Europe, the Mediterranean area and Asia. Although statistical data are incomplete and scattered, there are indications that oxen and work cow numbers declined somewhat in Europe following the second World War. On the other hand, mules and asses are reported to have increased slightly in Greece, Italy and France.

Because of the economic importance of work cows, oxen and water buffaloes as a source of milk and meat, as well as draft power, and their ability, like that of all other work stock, to utilize cheap roughages, they have an assured position in the economy of many small farms. However, some progress has been made in the application of tractor power to small farms, and as further progress is made the importance of work cows in some areas may be expected to decline further.

As a result of increased mechanization in the United States and Canada, mules continued to decline during 1950. In the Near and Far East, water buffaloes have increased in some countries, but decreased in Turkey. The Philippine carabao (water buffalo) population, as reported early in 1951, remained below the prewar level.

During the coming year, mechanization may be expected to continue to contribute materially to the total world farm power. In some European and many Asian countries, however, the lack of working capital together with other economic factors will continue to limit extensive mechanization.

HORSES: Number in specified countries,
average 1934-38, annual 1948-1951

Continent and country	Month of 1/ estimate	Average 1934-38	1948	1949	1950 2/	1951 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<u>NORTH AMERICA</u>						
Canada.....	June 1	2,864	1,904	1,796	1,683	-
Mexico.....	June 3/	2,199	-	-	-	-
United States.....	Jan. 1	11,570	6,589	5,898	5,274	4,763
Cuba.....	Dec. 31 1/	582	-	-	-	-
Estimated total.....		18,600	12,800	12,000	11,200	10,500
<u>EUROPE</u>						
Austria.....	Dec. 3 1/ 4/5/	261	283	284	282	283
Belgium.....	Jan. 1 1/	245	288	265	257	247
Bulgaria 6/.....	Dec. 31 1/ 5/	532	-	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia.....	Jan. 1 7/	654	650	640	640	-
Denmark.....	July 15	553	573	532	503	-
Finland.....	Mar. 1 8/	372	382	402 9/	427	-
France.....	Fall 1/	2,808	2,407	2,418	2,414	2,394
Germany - Western.....	Dec. 1 1/ 7/	1,542	1,577	1,618	1,629	1,570
Greece.....	Dec. 31 1/	356	241	231	232	242
Hungary.....	Spring	803	516	569	-	-
Iceland.....	Spring	46 1/	55 1/	52 1/	44 1/	43
Ireland.....	June	429	421	402	391	-
Italy.....	July 4/5/	801	- 1/	793 1/	791	-
Luxembourg.....	Dec. 1 1/ 5/	17	17	17	16	15
Netherlands.....	May	293	300	276	252	-
Norway.....	June 20	186	206	198	191	-
Poland.....	June 30 5/	3,149	2,300	2,538	-	-
Portugal.....	Dec. 31 1/ 5/	90	-	-	-	-
Rumania.....	Dec. 31 1/ 5/	1,581	-	-	-	-
Spain.....	Dec. 31 1/ 5/	563	600	600	-	-
Sweden.....	Summer	615	497	465	440	-
Switzerland.....	April 5/	140	142	138	134	-
United Kingdom.....	June	1,107	703	618	549	-
Yugoslavia.....	Dec. 31 1/	1,212	-	-	-	-
Estimated total.....		19,300	16,000	16,300	16,400	16,200
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)....	Jan. 1 5/	19,900	-	-	- 10/	13,700
<u>ASIA</u>						
Iran.....	Mar. 21 7/	328	350	330	365	365
Iraq.....	5/	150	188	188	184	-
Syria.....	Dec. 31 1/	58	141	108	98	-
Turkey.....	Dec. 31 1/ 7/	915	1,066	1,164	1,134	1,140
Burma.....	Dec. 31 1/	57	12	-	-	-
China (22 provinces).....	May 7/	3,772	-	-	-	-
Manchuria and Jehol.....	Dec. 31 1/ 7/	1,948	-	-	-	-
Outer Mongolia.....	5/	1,550	-	-	-	-
French Indochina.....	7/	105	-	-	26	-

Continued---

HORSES: Number in specified countries,
average 1934-38, annual 1948-1951

Continent and country	Month of 1/ estimate	Average 1934-38	1948	1949	1950 2/	1951 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<u>ASIA (Continued)</u>						
India.....	Dec. 31 1/	5/ 1,850	-	-	-	1,550
Indonesia.....	Dec. 31 1/	652	-	-	596	-
Japan.....	Dec. 31 1/	1,330	1,091	1,072	1,120	1,130
Pakistan.....	Dec. 31 1/	5/ 535	470	-	-	-
Philippine Islands.....	Jan. 1	5/ 340	183	195	215	235
Siam.....	March 31	364	-	-	-	220
Estimated total.....		15,100	12,100	12,100	12,200	12,100
<u>SOUTH AMERICA</u>						
Argentina.....	July 1	5/ 8,290	-	-	-	-
Brazil.....		7/ 6,149	6,800	-	-	-
Chile.....	June 1	7/ 489	460	460	-	-
Colombia.....	Dec. 31 1/	7/ 941	1,130	1,183	1,180	-
Paraguay.....	Dec. 31 1/	7/ 229	404	354	294	275
Peru.....		5/ 400	453	-	518	-
Uruguay.....	April	5/ 644	546	550	-	550
Estimated total.....		17,700	17,600	17,700	17,400	17,400
<u>AFRICA</u>						
Algeria.....		176	205	204	209	-
French Morocco 11/.....	Dec. 31 1/	216	162	155	165	-
Tunisia.....	Dec. 31 1/	108	76	66	70	71
Union of South Africa.....	August	5/ 778	684	-	-	-
Estimated total.....		3,100	3,900	3,800	3,800	3,800
<u>OCEANIA</u>						
Australia.....	March 31	1/ 1,761	1,165	1,115	1,057	-
New Zealand.....	Jan. 31	274	204	196	190	-
Estimated total.....		2,100	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,200
Estimated world total.....		95,800	75,100	75,200	75,000	74,900

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus, for Austria the December 3, 1947 estimate of 283,000 is shown under 1948. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average of 1930 and 1940 censuses. 4/ March. 5/ Census or estimate for single year. 6/ Includes Southern Dobrudja in postwar years. 7/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 8/ September. 9/ Census, June 15, 1950. 10/ Official estimate of the U.S.S.R. 11/ Data include only number taxed.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory, unless otherwise noted. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.

WORK STOCK: Number in specified European and other countries, prewar average and 1948-50

Continent and country	Month of estimate	Horses, work 2/				Mules and asses				Oxen and work cows				Water Buffaloes			
		Prewar average	1948	1949	1950 4/ average	Prewar average	1948	1949	1950 4/ average	Prewar average	1948	1949	1950 4/ average	Prewar average	1948	1949	1950 4/ average
		3/				3/				3/				3/			
		Thousands				Thousands				Thousands				Thousands			
NORTH AMERICA																	
Canada.....	June 1	5/ 2,457:5/	1,813:5/	1,714:5/	1,614:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guatemala.....	July	73:	-	-	-	37:	61:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico.....	June	7/ 2,199:	-	-	-	3,084:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States.....	Jan. 1	5/ 10,373:5/	6,208:5/	5,552:5/	4,971:	4,621:	2,541:	2,348:	2,149:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cuba.....	Dec. 31 1/	7/ 582:	-	-	-	79:	37:	37:	37:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominican Republic.....	Dec. 31 1/	7/ 273:7/	136:7/	139:	-	191:	119:	124:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EUROPE																	
Austria.....	Dec. 3 1/	224:	225:	224:	217:	1:	3:	2:	2:8/	180:8/	165:8/	140:8/	138:	-	-	-	-
Belgium.....	Jan. 1	164:	178:	183:	192:9/	12:	3:	2:	2:	6/	65:	48:	42:	-	-	-	-
Bulgaria.....	Dec. 31 1/	412:	-	-	-	218:	-	-	-	955:	-	-	-	375:	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia.....	Jan. 1	546:	-	-	-	1:	-	-	-	6/	6/	6/	6/	-	-	-	-
Denmark.....	July	425:	423:	409:	400:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finland.....	Mar. 1	318:	313:	308:	363:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
France.....	Fall 1/	2,314:	1,860:	1,866:	1,864:	331:	189:	195:	196:	4,700:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Germany-Western.....	Dec. 1 1/	1,256:	1,206:	1,229:	1,208:	-	6:	5:	4:	2,286:	2,296:	2,258:	2,153:	-	-	-	-
Greece.....	Dec. 31 1/	260:	178:	171:	171:	567:	504:	504:	517:	483:	342:	303:	300:	58:	59:	58:	57
Hungary.....	Spring	714:	405:	418:	-	5:	6:	-	-	8/ 174:8/	114:8/	110:	-	7:	3:	-	-
Iceland.....	Spring	34:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland.....	June	327:	340:	326:	317:	168:	125:	124:	119:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy.....	July	831:	-	-	-	1,370:	-	1,123:	1,139:12/	2,063:	-	-	-	12/	15:	-	-
Luxembourg.....	Dec. 1 1/	15:	14:	14:	-	-	-	-	-	3:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands.....	May	231:	226:	221:	211:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway.....	June 20	156:	187:	180:	176:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poland.....	June 30	2,562:	-	1,932:	-	-	-	-	-	6/	6/	6/	6/	-	-	-	-
Portugal.....	June 30	71:	-	-	-	397:	-	-	-	6/	6/	6/	6/	-	-	-	-
Romania.....	Dec. 31 1/	1,323:	-	-	-	12:	-	-	-	6/	6/	6/	6/	175:	-	-	-
Spain.....	Dec. 31 1/	466:	-	-	-	-	-	1,900:	-	13/ 1,900:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden.....	Summer	519:	451:	424:	401:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switzerland.....	April	115:	102:	104:	106:	4:	2:	-	-	6/	6/	6/	6/	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom.....	June	763:	517:	454:	396:	7:	-	-	-	6/	6/	6/	6/	-	-	-	-
Yugoslavia.....	Dec. 31 1/	1,017:	-	-	-	139:	-	-	-	6/	6/	6/	6/	37:	-	-	-

ASIA														
Iran.....	Mar. 21	328:7/	350:7/	330:7/	365:	1,186:	1,267:	1,173:	1,245:	5/	5/	5/	5/	120
Iraq.....	Fall	150:7/	188:7/	188:7/	184:	380:	-	465:	393:	5/	5/	5/	5/	201
Syria.....	Dec. 31	58:7/	141:7/	108:7/	98:	149:	278:	302:	321:	5/	5/	5/	5/	7
Turkey.....	Dec. 31	723:	-	-	-	1,499:	1,821:	1,814:	1,790:	5/	5/	5/	5/	999
British Malaya.....	Dec. 31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	223
Eurma.....	Dec. 31	52:	-	-	-	2:	1:	-	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	-
Ceylon.....	Dec. 31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	-
China (22 provinces).....	May	3,772:	-	-	-	13,961:	-	-	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	-
Manchuria and Jehol.....	Dec. 31	1,948:	-	-	-	1,295:	-	-	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	-
French Indochina.....	Dec. 31	105:	-	-	-	2:	-	-	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	-
India.....	Dec. 31	1,850:	-	-	-	1,165:	-	-	1,175:	5/	5/	5/	5/	1,270
Japan.....	Dec. 31	991:	906:	954:	-	-	-	-	1,495:	5/	5/	5/	5/	41,500
Indonesia.....	Dec. 31	652:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	-
Philippine Islands.....	Jan. 1	340:7/	183:7/	195:7/	215:	-	-	-	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	2,665
Siam.....	Mar. 31	364:	-	90:	-	-	-	-	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	2,035
Pakistan.....	Dec. 31	535:7/	470:	-	-	920:	955:	-	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	4,000
SOUTH AMERICA														
Argentina.....	July 1	2,566:	-	-	-	786:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brazil.....	July 1	6,149:7/	6,800:	-	-	3,489:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chile.....	June 1	489:7/	460:7/	460:	-	93:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colombia.....	Dec. 31	941:7/	1,130:7/	1,183:7/	1,180:	760:	761:	797:	800:	-	-	-	-	-
Paraguay.....	Dec. 31	229:7/	404:7/	354:7/	294:	15:	33:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peru.....	April	400:	-	-	-	407:	472:	-	582:	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay.....	April	530:	-	-	-	15:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AFRICA														
Algeria.....	July 1	176:7/	205:7/	204:7/	209:	527:	511:	485:	557:	5/	5/	5/	5/	-
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.....	Mar.	23:7/	20:	-	-	371:	500:	-	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	-
Egypt.....	Mar.	33:	-	-	-	886:	-	-	-	5/	5/	5/	5/	-
French Morocco.....	Dec. 31	216:7/	162:7/	155:7/	165:	845:	672:	695:	759:	5/	5/	5/	5/	-
French West Africa.....	Dec. 31	183:	-	-	-	449:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tunisia.....	Dec. 31	108:7/	76:7/	66:7/	70:	229:	187:	159:	170:	5/	5/	5/	5/	-
Union of South Africa.....	August	305:	-	-	-	1,000:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OCEANIA														
Australia.....	Mar. 31	1,761:7/	1,165:7/	1,115:7/	1,057:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Zealand.....	Jan. 31	169:	114:	105:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus, for Austria the December 3, 1947 estimate of 225,000 work horses is shown under 1948. 2/ Horses three years of age and over. 3/ Averages for years 1934-38, or years available in that period. 4/ Preliminary. 5/ Horses two years of age and over. 6/ Oien and cows are of importance as a source of draft power, but statistics are not available. 7/ Total number of horses; classification by age groups not available. 8/ Excludes work cows, for which statistics are not available. 9/ December 31, 1929. 10/ September. 11/ Horses four years of age and over. 12/ Census, March 19, 1930. 13/ May 1933. 14/ Census, January 1, 1939. 15/ Number taxed only. 16/ Number owned by Europeans only.

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